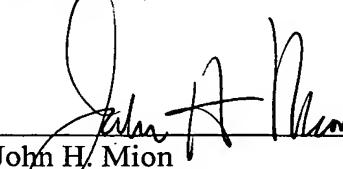


PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

REMARKS

The Examiner is respectfully requested to examine the new claims 9-16 contained in this Preliminary Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,



John H. Mion

Registration No. 18,879

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037-3213
(202) 663-7901

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: June 15, 2005